

1995-  
South Dakota Bird Notes 47(2):34-35

### **SIGHTING OF A WHOOPER SWAN IN NORTH DAKOTA.**

On 25 August 1992, Bergman observed a Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) feeding in a flooded wheat field. The wetland was located in T130N R56W S23 NW 1/4 of Sargent County, North Dakota. The swan was feeding with approximately 50 dabbling ducks. After taking 35mm slides (seen by David L. Swanson, secretary, South Dakota Ornithologists' Union Rare Bird Records Committee; the committee took no action on this report) of the swan, it flushed as Bergman attempted to get closer for another slide. A Whooper Swan was observed feeding on the same wetland on 27 August 1992, with a flock of approximately 70 dabbling ducks, by Bergman and Homan.

The Whooper Swan is one of four species of swans found in North America (Bellrose, 1976, *Ducks Geese and Swans of North America*, Stackpole Books, Harrisburg; Palmer, 1976, *Handbook of North American Birds*, vol. 2, Yale University Press, New Haven). Historically, only the trumpeter swan has bred in North Dakota (Stewart, 1975, *Breeding birds of North Dakota*, Tri-college Center for Environmental Studies, Fargo). To date, the Trumpeter Swan and the Tundra Swan are found in North Dakota on a yearly basis (Mike Johnson, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, pers. comm.). Occasionally, Whooper Swans travel with flocks of Tundra Swans into North Dakota (Hal Kantrud, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pers. comm.).

The Whooper Swan could have escaped from a local waterfowl breeder or zoo, but we were unable to locate any reports of a missing swan. Two records exist for Ontario during the winters of 1978-79 and 1980, and it was concluded that these birds probably represented escaped captives (D. L. Swanson, pers. comm.). Because Whooper Swans are normally found on the Asian continent (Bellrose 1976, Palmer 1976), we hypothesize that the swan was an accidental migrant from Asia, but we do not rule out the possibility that it could have escaped from a zoo or a private breeder.

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